

Notice of Allowability

Application No.

09/426,573

Applicant(s)

FISHER ET AL.

Examiner

Art Unit

JAGDISH PATEL

3624

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address--

All claims being allowable, PROSECUTION ON THE MERITS IS (OR REMAINS) CLOSED in this application. If not included herewith (or previously mailed), a Notice of Allowance (PTOL-85) or other appropriate communication will be mailed in due course. **THIS NOTICE OF ALLOWABILITY IS NOT A GRANT OF PATENT RIGHTS.** This application is subject to withdrawal from issue at the initiative of the Office or upon petition by the applicant. See 37 CFR 1.313 and MPEP 1308.

1. ☒ This communication is responsive to 12/13/2004.
2. ☒ The allowed claim(s) is/are 15-25.
3. ☒ The drawings filed on 25 October 1999 are accepted by the Examiner.
4. ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
 - a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some* c) ☐ None of the:
 1. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
 3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this national stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* Certified copies not received: _____.

Applicant has THREE MONTHS FROM THE "MAILING DATE" of this communication to file a reply complying with the requirements noted below. Failure to timely comply will result in ABANDONMENT of this application.

THIS THREE-MONTH PERIOD IS NOT EXTENDABLE.

5. ☐ A SUBSTITUTE OATH OR DECLARATION must be submitted. Note the attached EXAMINER'S AMENDMENT or NOTICE OF INFORMAL PATENT APPLICATION (PTO-152) which gives reason(s) why the oath or declaration is deficient.
6. ☐ CORRECTED DRAWINGS (as "replacement sheets") must be submitted.
 - (a) ☐ including changes required by the Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) attached
 - 1) ☐ hereto or 2) ☐ to Paper No./Mail Date _____.
 - (b) ☐ including changes required by the attached Examiner's Amendment / Comment or in the Office action of Paper No./Mail Date _____.

Identifying indicia such as the application number (see 37 CFR 1.84(c)) should be written on the drawings in the front (not the back) of each sheet. Replacement sheet(s) should be labeled as such in the header according to 37 CFR 1.121(d).
7. ☐ DEPOSIT OF and/or INFORMATION about the deposit of BIOLOGICAL MATERIAL must be submitted. Note the attached Examiner's comment regarding REQUIREMENT FOR THE DEPOSIT OF BIOLOGICAL MATERIAL.

Attachment(s)

1. ☐ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
2. ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
3. ☒ Information Disclosure Statements (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08),
Paper No./Mail Date 7/19/04
4. ☐ Examiner's Comment Regarding Requirement for Deposit
of Biological Material
5. ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)
6. ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413),
Paper No./Mail Date _____.
7. ☒ Examiner's Amendment/Comment
8. ☐ Examiner's Statement of Reasons for Allowance
9. ☐ Other _____.

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DETAILED ACTION

1. This communication is in response to amendment filed 12/13/04.

Response to Amendment

2. Claims 15-25 are pending and are allowed.

EXAMINER'S AMENDMENT

3. An examiner's amendment to the record appears below. Should the changes and/or additions be unacceptable to applicant, an amendment may be filed as provided by 37 CFR 1.312. To ensure consideration of such an amendment, it MUST be submitted no later than the payment of the issue fee.

Authorization for this examiner's amendment was given in a telephone interview with Andre L. Marais (Reg. 48,095) on 3/7/05.

Please amendment claim 25 as follows:

Claim 25: A computer-readable medium embodying instructions to be executed by a computer to execute an update processing and transmission method, said method comprising:

automatically obtaining status information relating to a commerce-related event in response to a status query to a common carrier information system, wherein the status information is

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received from the common carrier information system over a network;

storing the status information in a status database relating to the commerce-related event, the common carrier information system generating the status information;

retrieving said status information from the status database;

automatically generating a status message reflective of said status information; and

automatically forwarding said status message to a point where it may be accessed by an interested party.

Reasons for Allowance

4. The following is an examiner's statement of reasons for allowance:

The claimed invention pertains to processing and transmission of status information relating to commerce related events among the interested parties.

5. The following prior art references have been deemed most relevant to the allowed claim(s):

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Helinski, Paul (« Automating Web-site Maintenance »

Web Techniques December 1996 teaches a system and method which automatically notifies to the users of any changes in the content of a web site based upon the preferences entered by the user when they sign in.

Linstead (US Pat. 5,548,753) teaches a passive system that writes a record into a predetermined storage location or table upon the occurrence of a predetermined event within a database system. (See col. 7, L15+). Linstead further teaches a daemon process that detects this record and, in response automatically prepares an electronic mail message and informs a supervisor that the purchase order (whose record is altered) is awaiting attention.

Canadian Patent (CIPO) application No. 2,173,166 dated April 1, 1996, teaches a method for facilitating physical mail delivery using Non-Physical Messages (such as an electronic message). A mail carrier such as a postal service receives electronic message via the Internet or other communication system from the customer who wish to receive specific mail delivery service from the carrier. The carrier prepares a report for the mail delivery service, which facilitates the arrangement for appropriate

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mail delivery in accordance with the customer specified delivery information.

E-commerce: Computer Associated announces CA-OpenIngres/ICE, providing Web enabled access to corporate data, EDGE, on & about AT&T, v10, n386, p19(1) published Dec 11, 1995. (E-commerce) teaches a database management system which through intelligent active business rules automatically notify users via an email message whenever a user's order is fulfilled.

The closest prior art of record discussed above generally relate to the allowed subject matter, namely they pertain to communicating business related information via the electronic messages between different entities. The claims of the represent invention represent non-obvious improvements over the prior art because each claim includes the following novel feature(s).

Claims 15-25: automatically obtaining status information relating to a commerce related event from and generated by a common carrier information system via a network, retrieving the status information from the common carrier information system database, automatically generating a status message reflective of the status information and automatically forwarding the status message to a point where it may be accessed by an interested party.

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Note that the daemon process disclosed in Linstead, simply checks whether a database has been updated and does not proactively seek the status of an event (e.g., a commerce-related or other type of event) from an information system (e.g., a common-carrier information system or any other type of information system) as per the allowed claims. Likewise, none of the cited closest prior art, alone, or any combination, teach or suggest this limitation. Therefore, claims 15-25 which recite steps of automatically generating and automatically forwarding the message as noted above are deemed patentable over the identified prior references.

6. Any comments considered necessary by applicant must be submitted no later than the payment of the issue fee and, to avoid processing delays, should preferably accompany the issue fee. Such submissions should be clearly labeled "Comments on Statement of Reasons for Allowance."

Conclusion

7. The prior art made of record and not relied upon is considered pertinent to applicant's disclosure.

Anderson, et al. (US Pat. 6,058,380) teaches a system and method for processing invoice information in which invoice information is communicated from a first site to a second site and an automated reasonability test is

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performed on the invoice information at the second site using a reasonability criterion.

Hosack, et al. (US Pat. 5,418,528) discloses a method, in a radio receiver for receiving messages from a plurality of sources, for prioritizing a deletion order for received messages, comprises the step of designating each of the plurality of sources as anchored sources or unanchored sources. The method further comprises the step of flagging at least last received messages from the anchored sources as anchored messages, wherein the anchored messages are deleted only after deletion of stored messages which are not flagged as anchored messages, and wherein each of the at least last received messages is automatically flagged without user input in response to reception of each of the at least last received messages.

Payne et al. (US Pat. 5,715,314) teaches a system for performing electronic shopping wherein a buyer computer receives a request for purchasing a product, and to cause a payment message to be sent to the payment computer that comprises a product identifier identifying the product. The payment computer is programmed to receive the payment message, to cause an access message to be created that comprises the product identifier and an access message

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authenticator based on a cryptographic key, and to cause the access message to be sent to the merchant computer. The merchant computer is programmed to receive the access message, to verify the access message authenticator to ensure that the access message authenticator was created using the cryptographic key, and to cause the product to be sent to the user desiring to buy the product.

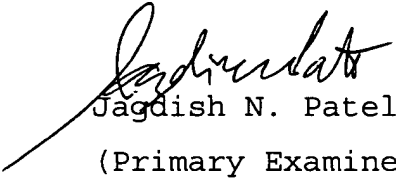
Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to JAGDISH PATEL whose telephone number is (703)308-7837. The examiner can normally be reached on 800AM-600PM M-Th.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Vincent Millin can be reached on (703)308-1065. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 703-872-9306.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair->

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direct.uspto.gov. Should you have questions on access to
the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business
Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).



Jagdish N. Patel

(Primary Examiner, AU 3624)

4/8/05